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Customer Number

PATENT
Docket No.: 56109US011**Proposed /PB/**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

DELTON R. THOMPSON, JR. et al.

Serial No.: 10/728,555
Filed: December 5, 2003

For: FIBROUS NONWOVEN WEBS

Group Art Unit: 1791
Confirmation No. 9972

Examiner: P. Butler

Draft amended claim 1 for discussion in interview of March 10, 2008:

1. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a nonwoven meltblown PET-fiber-based web comprising:
- a) feeding undegraded PET polymer of an intrinsic viscosity of between about 0.45 and 0.75 into an extruder that is connected to a meltblowing die, such that the PET polymer becomes molten;
 - ba) extruding the molten undegraded PET polymer at having a temperature of about 295 degrees C or less through the orifices of the a meltblowing die into a high-velocity stream of air to produce a mass of PET fibers, the stream of air having a manifold air temperature of about 260 degrees C or less and an air velocity of at least 100 meters per second sufficient to impart chain-extended crystallization to the PET fibers and thereby provide dimensional stability to a web of the fibers; and
 - cb) collecting the prepared PET fibers.

The main discussion topic will be support for the "undegraded" PET claim element, based on page 2 line 14, page 11 line 7, and based on the "3M PET resin 651000" cited in Example 1 (page 15 line 16), based on the premise that one skilled in the art would recognize this resin as being an undegraded PET.